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A SEASON'S SOWING

By Charles Keeler

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON MUSIC AND DRAMA

GREEK THEATRE

HALF-HOUR OF MUSIC

Sunday, August 13, 1933, at 4:00 p.m.

CHARLES KEELER

In a Reading of His Own Poems

With Songs Composed to His Lyrics by

HENRY BICKFORD PASMORE

and

SIGNOR ANTONIO DE GRASSI

Sung by

EDNA RICHART

(The Composers will accompany their own compositions)

PROGRAMME

I. ACADEMIC GROUP

1. O Golden Gate!

A Season's Sowing.

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A Season's Sowing.

Upon the cold drear earth men cast their seed,
When lo, it springs to life—a glorious breed!
Thus have I sown these thoughts for idle hours;
If part be weeds may some not grow to flowers?

A·SEASON'S SOWING

Written By
CHARLES KEELER
and
Decorated By
LOUISE KEELER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Published By
A.M.ROBERTSON.
San Francisco.
MDCCCXCIX

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Dedication

Together have we toiled for
beauty's sake,
And all our labor has not been
in vain,
Since in our hearts this token
did awake:
Love's blessing falls on those
who share life's pain.

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RELATIVITY

Maid of morning, nymph of night,
Link your hands in pressure light;
What without the dark were day,
What without December, May.

Gladsome Spirit

The light of peace was in her smile,
Her laughter thrilled like music's power;
She passed adown life's stony way
And from each footprint sprang a flower.

ayside Gleanings

I gather flowers on moss-paved woodland ways,
I roam with poets dead in tranced amaze;
Soon must my wild-wood sheaf be cast away,
But in my heart the poet's song shall stay.

he Sky Weavers

The cloud-sheep's wool is sheared for spinning,
And the good earth mother has spun it in rain;
The golden strands of the sun she's winning
To weave in a fabric of golden grain.

The World Secret

A secret is guarded by each rose cell,
Seek it and study its meaning well;
It lies at the heart of the great world plan
And tells of the making of earth and man.

Love

A sibyl of unnumbered years is she;
A sphinx who calmly looks at destiny;
Forever young,—prophet of all things true:
Men, monarchies and worlds can she subdue.

Stars of the Soul

I looked into a lens while stars rolled by;
I looked into your eyes so like the sky:
And in your eyes methought I saw revealed
More worlds than swam in heav'n's unending field.

Imitations

He who can shape of cosmic mist
the spheres
And round a world in all its wonder dight,
Can fashion out of thought the
dizzy years,
Aye, even he is slave to truth and
right.

The Anthem of the Sea

O breezes blow me some soft
melody
Upon the reed pipe by the western
shore,
And let thy anthem low steal pleadingly
In great sea throbs of love forevermore.

The Joy of Nature

The pine trees wave their tops and
shout for joy,
The great sea claps its snow white
hands in glee,
And from the thunder cloud's dark
lips roll free
Wild strains that glorify while
flames destroy.

Transmutations

Each quiver of gnat wing goes trembling afar
Impalpably winging from star unto star;
Each thought once created for good or for ill
Lives on its own part in the world to fulfill.

The Master Man

The clock's the slave of father time,
The sun controls the season,
But man is master in his prime
And rules them all with reason.

The Song and the Echo

I dreamed that in my hand I held a bird
Warbling in careless joy its woodland strain;
I wakened and the echo still I heard,
But O methought its murmur breathed of pain.

Heredity

Blind power that chains me to the wheel of fate,
Huge stone that crushes with its cruel weight,
One weapon have I that can curb thee still,
My own untrammelled, self controlléd will.

The Will to Do

'Twas might of will that made the reptile fly;
'Twas love that changed it to a bird of song;
O man, faint hearted, if thou wouldst but try,
Thou, too, couldst mount and sing on pinions strong.

Conscience

In heaven there sits a judge in awful state
Who in the book of doom writes down my fate.
"O who art thou, stern judge?" erstwhile I cried.
"Thy own immortal self," the voice replied.

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The Atoms

The atoms—blocks wherewith the soul
Builds temples wrought of flesh and flower,
Whence unto God deep strains uproll
To praise the Master's gracious power!

Supremacy

There is a power that guides the wind,
That holds the raging sea in awe,—
In heaven 'tis called the Master Mind,
On earth the Universal Law.

The Making of Man

When thou wert made, O man, the great stars sang
A paean of exultant hopes and fears;
Robed in the love of God thou didst arise,
Battling thy way through earth's wild sea of tears.

Light and Love

The mighty pillars of eternal day
Are light and love that steadfast stand, sublime,
Propping the heavens glorious in array
Of blue, supreme above the trend of time.

The Sphinx Life

The sting of the snake in the withered grass,
The sweep of a storm from a sky of brass,
The kiss of a mother upon her dead,—
The riddle of life in death is read.

To the Nineteenth Century

Ye mightiest age of ages, there shall be
A paean as of victory when thou
To all thy triumphs addest this decree:
Before the love eternal men shall bow.

The People's Triumph

There is a wide-world melody that sings
The triumph of the people, grown to kings,—
The triumph of the good, the true, the just:
In this, O man, put all thy life and trust!

Progress

Could I but speak the great world voice I hear,
I'd hie me from my vale to some far height
And herald with my trumpet, loud and clear,
Progress! but with love's clear torch for light!

Stranded Hopes

Like shipwrights do we launch on ocean's way
Our thoughts, well freighted for the voyage afar.
How few may waft to Europe or Cathay—
Time's wreckage clings on many a moaning bar!

Love Eternal

The rainbow melteth in its fair array,
The rath rose fadeth with the passing day;
But long as time's wheel turns shall last and grow
The love 'tween you and me in tender glow.

Baby and Mother

Little one by your mother's side
I look and I wonder at her and at you;
Years may roll in a sullen tide
But still you'll trust and she'll be true.

Childhood's Mystery

I look into my baby's eyes;
What mystery is there concealed?
A little soul of beauty rare
With innocence for golden shield.

Solitude

With thee, O solitude, let me abide
Some little span, and breathe thy joyous air;
For I grow weary here where mortals chide
And long to rest where all is passing fair.

To a Caged Canary

Sing through your prison bars, bird, to the sun;
Freedom by singing alone can be won:
I, from my prison of flesh, strive in vain
Thus by a song to be master of pain.

Pity

Dear heart have pity for all creature's pain,
Be merciful, be gentle, and forget
No sorrow save your own: thus may you gain
Some word of love from eyes with anguish wet.

The Crucible of Grief

When in the crucible of grief is thrown
A human soul, with fate's white flame below,
The Master watches silent and alone
To see if gold be freed in midst of woe.

Contentment

A prophetess held forth the gift of fate
To one who reached on high to take the scroll.
He chose contentment. At the sibyl's gate
A stranger passing heard a death knell toll.

The Eternal

The herb of the field may wither and the flower be but dust in a day,
But the seed that is sown in summer shall quicken next May;
And the heart of the man aweary may rest from its pain in peace,
But the love it has long engendered shall live and increase.

Portrait

Hair of the harvest field, eye of the ocean's hue,
Thoughtful and calm the brow, tender the lips, and true;
Peaceful the poise of head, loving the smile of grace,
Lofty the spirit that shows through the gentle face.

Spring flowers

Cups of blue and stars of gold
Reach above the April sward;
Earth in vain may seek to hold
Spirits who would greet their Lord.

In the Springtime

The lizard has crawled from the darkness to bask in the sun,
The snakes, in their raiment of gold, glide abroad, one by one;
The birds in the branches above are with gladness inspired,
Fair earth with the glory of heaven, sublimely is fired.

The Chant of Love

In dead night silence still I hear
The clash of deeds throughout the sphere;
But over all, beneath, above,
The all-enfolding chant of love.

Harpocrates

Think you Harpocrates, with finger pressed
Forever on sealed lips, shaped not one strain
Within his brooding soul, to love addressed,
That vexed his spirit with its tones in vain?

The Thrush's Song

The earth wheels into night, and clear
The thrushes liquid voice I hear:
It tells of longing love and peace;
It bids day care and toil to cease.

The Dying Year

The waning year heaves, faltering, to its rest,
But from its dead self springs the glad new year.
O phoenix time, thou risest to attest
What promise waits the soul when death is near.

Infinite Yearnings

Is 't not enough the sun shines half the year?
Is 't not enough if some one tried and dear
Look in your eyes with quick soul thrilling fire?
Enough? Thou wouldst but mock my vain desire!

A Story

You touched the faded flower I hold,
And vanished mid the mist of years.
I sit alone by my hearthstone cold
While you are smiling through bitter tears.

ame

The fame men seek is but a petty thing,
A bird soon captured, sooner taking wing;
And he who would be great in time's behest
Must live on earth but as a passing guest.

mperfection

Man doth not carve of life a flawless gem,
Nor God crown death with radiant diadem;
But slowly, year by year and age by age,
Life grows to claim its matchless heritage.

he Robe of Life

Man art thou? rather God I say
Who in time's loom can weave alone
Of spirit threads the cloth of day
And make life's robe your own.

Illusions

I'll sing you a song of a tabby cat:—
All day long by the stove she sat;
The fire was out but it kept her warm,
Thus oft are men contented by form.

To a Moth

When thy sleep is over, when thy wings are grown,
Thou silent rover in the still night, lone,
Then is the world of darkness all thine own,
To wind thee unto death, ere night has flown.

The Crab Type

There are some men who, when approached by friend,
Instead of hand-clasp, crab's strong claws extend;
Who face you, but to walk away in fear
Until in slimy pools they disappear.

The Greed for Gold

A man on the desert was mining for gold,
His tongue was swollen with bitter thirst,
When his shaft was filled by a streamlet cold
And he drank with a will while his luck he cursed.

A Passing Train

A monster of metal, a quiver of steel,
A thunder onrushing, a shrieking of steam!
The power, the fury of wheel after wheel!
The madness of science!—a smoke-cloud, a dream!

The World Out of Tune

A fly at a concert sang buzz in B flat,
While the orchestra played in A minor.
Said the fly, it is clear, for the matter of that,
These men need to train their ears finer.

Change

Beauty to-day,
Dust to-morrow,—
Will nothing stay
Save sorrow?

The Eternal

Who says sorrow?—
Haste then, and borrow
From heaven's pure hue
Th' eternal blue!

Deo Juvante

Fight for right!
Toil! be true!
God in might
Watches you!

About us lie the realms of beauty free
To all who will but look abroad and see.

he Heart a Reed

The heart is but a reed till love and hope
Expand it to an organ's might and scope.

ife Reckoning

Count not thy life in length of traversed years
But in the fulness of thy joys and tears.

ruth

Truth, like a changeless sun, burns ever clear,
But men are blinded when they gaze too near.

xperience

In life's cobweb one never makes sure
till he tries
Which men are the spiders and which
ones the flies.

oth and Candle

I would that all mischief were packed
in thy frame
Little moth as thou wingest to death in
the flame.

and Sharks

fish bite at bait of their own kind.
Alas that men so base we find!

Weep for the Living

Weep for the living, not for the dead.
'Tis we who hunger while they are fed.

Life's Round

Sunlight and shadow and night with its peace—
Laughter and weeping till death bid us cease.

Hope and Despair

Hope, like the flame that feeds on air,
Soon falls in ashes of despair.

The Song of Freedom

A bird at dawn sings as a silver flute;
We capture it, entranced, when lo, 'tis
mute!

The Major Chord

Sing life's song in a major strain,
Then will you not have lived in vain.

The Mission of Song

Song lifts us from the tranquil sphere
of earth—
Showing the spirit its transcendent
worth.

Doubt and faith

Doubt kills the spirit when pursued too long,
But faith is deadly when its trust is wrong.

Pain

He cannot quite remove the earthy stain,
Whose life has not been purified by pain.

Service

He who would rightly serve his fellow men
Must with right service to himself begin.

hadow and Light

Sin, the soul's shadow and love the
Lord's light,
As the man stands unveiled in his Mas-
ter's full sight.

hrice Crowed the Cock

Thrice crowed the cock and thrice was
Christ denied,
But truth cannot be hid tho' men deride.

he Soul of Man

The soul of man is like the boisterous
sea,
With deeps as calm as is eternity.

Conceit

"Had I such gay plumes as the gobbler I know,"
Clucked the hen, "they would not be forever on show."

Hypocrisy

Men serve you sawdust when you ask for bread.
You eat it and avow you're amply fed!

Time's Lottery

Shake the dice, Father Time, in the dice box night,
And we'll count our luck by the sun's first light.

imits of Vision

The hawk, as he soars through the
boundless blue,
Sees only the mouse in his earth-wide
view.

il and Toil

Laugh you may and work you must
Or the wheels of the brain will be
clogged with rust.

haracter

Character seems like a stocking of
wool,
Knitted so closely, undone by a pull.

Seed Sowing

Not for the sake of fathers dead alone
But for the race to come must seed be sown.

Courage

Courage—the will to do aright that trifling thing,
Which little thanks and much reproach may bring!

The Present

In life one moment is for you and me,
The present, which we ever seek to flee.

an's Talisman

Birds sing for love, for meat are lions bold,
'Tis man alone who sings and fights for gold.

reedom

Cried the steam as it burst from an engine in glee,
"I move the world when I strive to be free!"

astery

The ship on the sea or the gull in the air,
Which one is the master, vain man? declare!

The Oversoul

Man sees whatever he wishes to find
For all lies hid in his boundless mind.

Hate

My cloak may serve to stay keen winter's tooth,
But not the bitter fangs of hate, forsooth.

Look to the Stars

He who grows dizzy on a narrow height
Had better keep the stars in constant sight.

The Martyr

Above earth's pain his eyes are bent,
He suffers for his faith, content.

The Hero

Self lost in glorious enterprise,
He scorns all fear and death defies.

The Prophet

He sees beyond the veiled to-day
The spirit that inspires the clay.

spire

Age of steam and the wizard fire,
The spirit calls; ascend! aspire!

he City

I hear the hum and throb of city streets.
Is this a living heart or vast machine
that beats?

ush the Button

Electric forces control the day;
Beware lest they spirit your heart
away!

One Point of View

Mothers have babies and babies have dollies,
While men have mostly their hobbies and follies.

Patience and Anger

Not every ill of flesh can patience cure,
But anger only makes the ill more sure.

Comradeship

A joy stole into a heart of stone;
A man awoke and was not alone.

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